

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 883**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Huffman**

February 26, 2009

---

An act relating to fish and wildlife.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 883, as introduced, Huffman. Department of Fish and Game.

Existing law establishes the Department of Fish and Game within the Natural Resources Agency, and generally charges the department with the administration and enforcement of the Fish and Game Code.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would enhance the effectiveness, accountability, and capacity of the department to fulfill its public trust mission, take steps necessary to fulfill specified policy goals, and identify changes in organizational structure or statutory authorities that would enable the department and the state to more efficiently and effectively provide for the protection, conservation, and management of the state's fish and wildlife.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) California is known worldwide for its rich ecological
- 4 diversity and for the many fish and wildlife species that inhabit its
- 5 lands and waters. These species and their habitats provide important

1 ecological services and contribute significantly to the state and  
2 local economies.

3 (b) California's fish and wildlife resources are held in trust for  
4 the people of the state by and through the Department of Fish and  
5 Game. Numerous past studies have identified significant shortfalls  
6 in the department's ability to carry out its public trust mandate to  
7 protect and manage fish and wildlife resources, both for their  
8 intrinsic values and for the benefit of the public. While progress  
9 has been made in some areas, significant challenges remain.

10 (c) Fish and wildlife populations are declining and many species  
11 are threatened with extinction. The state's biological diversity  
12 faces multiple and growing threats, including, but not limited to,  
13 habitat loss, lack of adequate water flows, pollution, invasive  
14 species, and the anticipated effects of climate change.

15 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation  
16 that would do all of the following:

17 (a) Enhance the effectiveness, accountability, and capacity of  
18 the Department of Fish and Game to fulfill its public trust mission  
19 to protect, conserve, and manage California's fish and wildlife  
20 resources for the benefit of the people of the state.

21 (b) Take steps necessary to fulfill the policy goals expressed by  
22 the Legislature in Sections 710, 710.5, 710.7, and 711 of the Fish  
23 and Game Code, including identifying and securing adequate  
24 resources to enable the Department of Fish and Game to fulfill its  
25 mission.

26 (c) Identify changes in organizational structure or statutory  
27 authorities that would enable the Department of Fish and Game  
28 and the state to more efficiently and effectively provide for the  
29 protection, conservation, and management of the state's fish and  
30 wildlife.